(d) The Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance for such approved irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in the next four financial years. An amount of Rs. 19,438 crore has been released under AIBP as Central Loan Assistance/grant upto March 2006 in respect of 200 major/medium irrigation projects and 5519 Surface Water Minor Irrigation Schemes. With the assistance provided under AIBP, 50 major/medium irrigation projects/project components and 3480 Surface Water Minor Irrigation Schemes have so far been reported as completed. The Central Water Commission is monitoring all the major/medium irrigation projects under AIBP and other selected major/medium irrigation projects under AIBP and other selected major/medium irrigation projects on a regular basis.

Flood problem in Assam

4105. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the status and achievements as on date of the Special Task Force that was constituted by the Prime Minister to tackle the flood problem of Assam;

(b) whether any policy has been concretised so far and any time-bound projects have been initiated for permanent solution of the problem; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) A Task Force on Flood Management/Erosion Control was set up under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission to look into the problem of floods in Assam and neighbouring States, West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force recommended flood management measures under Immediate, Short Term-I and Short Term-II Categories. A revised scheme for "critical flood control and anti erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley" under the State Sector incorporating the projects recommended by Task Force under immediate and Short Term-I categories has been prepared. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has recommended the revised scheme for an amount of Rs. 225 crore for 10th plan for approval of CCEA.